

**Dunne**

EPA Region 5 Records Ctr.



349951

**From:** "Dunne"  
**To:** <krause.patricia@epa.gov>  
**Sent:** Monday, June 29, 2009 2:47 PM  
**Subject:** NSP Superfund site in Chequamegon Bay

We support the EPA proposed cleanup plan for the NSP Superfund site in Chequamegon Bay. The plan is a good one and deserves public support. The most expensive part of the project will be the sediment cleanup work. EPA has proposed a very reasonable and environmentally sound method which would use dry excavation of the inner bay/near shore for the wood waste and contaminated sediment and (wet) dredging farther off shore to remove contaminated sediments with contaminants (PAH—polyaromatic hydrocarbons) greater than 9.5 ppm. Wet dredging is less expensive but would, as I understand it, be less feasible/effective in the near shore area.

Protecting the Great Lakes and protecting our ground water is in the best interest of us locally and in the best interest of our country. We support the cleanup plan.

Sondra and Robert Dunne

*Sondra Dunne 6/29/09*  
*Robert Dunne 6/29/09*

## Ashland/NSP Lakefront Site Public Comment Sheet

### Use This Space to Write Your Comments

EPA is interested in your comments on the proposed cleanup plan for the Ashland/NSP Lakefront site. You may use the space below to write your comments. You may submit this at the June 29 public meeting, or fold, stamp and mail to Patti Krause. Comments must be postmarked by July 16, 2009. If you have any questions, please contact Patti directly at 312-886-9506 or toll free at 800-621-8431 ext. 69506, weekdays 8:30 a.m. - 4:30 p.m. Comments may also be faxed to Patti at 312-697-2568, emailed to [krause.patricia@epa.gov](mailto:krause.patricia@epa.gov) or sent by the Web at [www.epa.gov/region5/publiccomment/ashland-pubcomment.htm](http://www.epa.gov/region5/publiccomment/ashland-pubcomment.htm).

I do want a copy of the original  
complaint which started this process,  
with signatures, using the fraction  
of information law.

Name:

EMERY MATSON

Affiliation:

MATSON PROPERTIES LLC

Address:

City:

ASHLAND

State:

WI

Zip:

54806

Ashland/NSP Lakefront Site  
Public Comment Sheet

Name  
Address  
City  
State  
Zip



Mr. Emory Mattson

EAU CLAIRE WI 547

02 JUL 2009 PM 1 T



FIRST CLASS

Patti Krause  
Community Involvement Coordinator  
EPA Region 5 (mail code SI-7J)  
77 W. Jackson Blvd.  
Chicago, IL 60604-3590

June 30, 2009

Emery Mattson

Patti Krause  
Community Involvement Coordinator  
EPA Region 5 (mail code SI-7J)  
7 W. Jackson Blvd.  
Chicago, IL 60604-3590

Re. Ashland XCEL Superfund site.

Due to travels, I was unable to attend the meetings in Ashland concerning the Ashland Wisconsin Superfund site. In my many travels since my retirement from teaching in 1998, I think I have seen any number of places much worst than the Ashland site. You maybe want to spend more time in Missouri, Louisiana, Texas, etc. The coal tars and other tailing basins in other parts of the country are much worst in my mind than the Ashland problem.

The general public has very little knowledge or interest in this project, but will when the gas bills increase. The poorest will be hurt the most by the increased utility rates. I am not aware of any study of increased health problems caused by this site. I would like to see research showing the need of the extensive repairs needed to help public health. Surly such studies must be completed to require such an expender of funds.

Using the freedom of information act, I would like a copy of the complaint that started the action in Ashland that was dated in the 1990's and signed by people. I do want a complete copy, with all names on the document. I am told that there are several other such sites that need to be addressed. I would like to find out what is being done at the other sites, and who is paying. I am concerned about the costs that must be paid.

I am a long-term Ashland resident. I lived in the area of the clean up site, and had a paper route in the area in the early 1950's. Some of my earliest memories are playing in the area that is now a park, but then it was a swamp. I remember going there to get the firewood that appeared each year to keep our house heated. It seemed to be an endless supply. I remember fishing in the area, and eating the fish. I lived near the area in 1948.

My playground was by the lake, as well as Bay City Creek, and I remember the many smells coming from the hill next to the lake. It was not the smell of petroleum products, but the smell of sewage running into the lake. I remember when the sawmills were still operating near the clean up site. I think that not all the problems in the area were a direct result of the gas factory. I also remember when the sewer treatment plant over flowed into the lake with raw sewage, which may have contained petroleum products that were flushed sometimes.

Later, in the early 1960's I worked in a service station that was near the site. When the lake was sand sucked in that period, many of the workers purchased fuel and I serviced some of there vehicles. I got to know many of the people well, since they were here for over a year. I do remember the four ore docks, as well as the three coal docks. I sold my extra papers to the sailors. My family was very poor, and my money went to help feed the family.

I am now retired from teaching sciences for 32 years, and now own rental properties. Presently, nearly half of my tenants are not able to pay their bills, including the rents and utilities.

Ashland has many older buildings, and very high-energy costs, as well as high water costs. The wages, for those who have employment, are very low. When you complete the clean up, and the energy bills are increased, you will also have to provide some low income housing so that the people without means, will have an affordable place to live.

As mentioned, I was a science teacher, diploma in Electronics, a degree in Physics and minor in Math, with a Masters in Science, passing comprehensive exams in five fields, and over 40 additional science credits. I was also life licensed in Computer Sciences. I am a licensed assessor, certified appraiser, rental weatherization inspector, as well a real estate broker. I read over 40 publications.

I do not support any project that will raise the cost of energy for the people who cannot afford to live with present energy costs. We have people who live at 55 degrees now to save heat. I had a house with working furnace some years ago, with frozen water pipes in the house because the people would not turn the heat up to over 45 degrees. XCEL has had to disconnect many due to lack of payment. I wonder if it is more important to allow people to heat their homes, or spend a great deal of money on a project that could be done with much less cost.

To me, the best solution, for this problem, would be the least expensive was to encapsulate the problem area. I have read articles in past years, I forgot where, suggesting that problems like this may have simple solutions in years to come. There are suggestions that some type of organism might be developed that could be injected into the trouble spots, and the organism would neutralize the contaminants.

I personally do not purchase gas for my home from XCEL. I do own 25 properties that do use XCEL natural gas. The tenants, mostly working poor, have to pay the energy. I read that the average resident would only have to pay \$1000 over 10 years, but many with means do not live in areas serviced by natural gas. They have moved to areas outside of the service area. Most of the expensive homes are being built outside of the city in the Ashland area. The poorest are the ones who will have to pay the most. Their houses are usually the least energy efficient.

I do not think anyone at the gas plant knew that they were causing a great problem, but now their children and grand children are going to be asked to pay for the clean up. That is not right.

I worry about the fact that we are told the gas customers who were serviced by NSP will have to pay the costs. I wonder if some of the NSP customers will seek to have only the people who were serviced by Lake Superior District Power pay all the costs, since they were the ones who used the gas from the plant.

It seems to me, if a sheet piling were placed around the contaminated area, water pumped out, membranes put in place, and covered with rocks and clay, the entire area could be stabilized for a lot less money. I am more afraid of a meteorite hitting the earth, people unable to pay for heat, recession, government running out of money, China owning our country, than I am of the contaminated site.

Pictures of Ashland, in the late 1800's show much of Ashland is a fill site and this can be said for many cities in the area, including Superior and Duluth. I would expect the fills in cities such as Ashland might have more detrimental effects than the Xcel site in Ashland.

If the economy continues to slide, it is entirely possible that the population of Ashland will be so small in years to come, that the contamination will have no one to bother. The increased cost of energy will be another reason for people to leave. Some states are cutting back on help to the low income, and the additional costs of energy in this area, cannot be paid.

I wonder in my own mind, which would have the greatest harm, the clean up will burn many thousands of gallons of fuel, and if the soil is treated to drive out the contaminants, it will most likely end up in the air. This should help to increase global warming, and air contamination.

In summary, I think the cheapest and easiest clean up, or encapsulation is what should be done for many reasons. If you are concerned about the breakage of sheet piling, I suggest you do two about 12 feet apart, tied together, filled with rock and concrete.

I do look forward to getting a copy of the original complaint that started this whole action, which is going to cost so many so much. I am interested in the names of the signers, and wonder if they even live in the area, and will have to pay for any of the costs themselves. The only thing the residents have in common is that the bills have to be paid.

I think if the general public knew what was going on with this project, they would be upset. This area has never been a problem until some people signed a petition to start an action that could cost them and their children and grand children a great deal of money that they need for their daily lives. I fortunately, am not a XCEL gas customer, and I can sell my properties and not be involved in the payment.


I would like all the decision makers think that the costs that are involved here might be the costs at some future time that might be assigned to their children, parents, or themselves. It is easy to be well employed by the government, and spend other people's money, on things that are not really needed. I was a public school employee, and as one, did not have any idea of the ways we wasted money in the education process. As a businessperson, I now see it another way.

Government employees do have the benefits of job security, insurance, retirement, and other benefits, that are not enjoyed by most of the people who will have to pay for the clean up, that may or may not be warranted. Many of those who will have to pay for this project have no idea of what is coming, and it will create a real hard ship for them.

It will not affect me at all, personally, since if I still own rentals, I will pass on the cost to the occupants. They will have to prioritize on what they will pay. Many will chose to pay rents and utilities, and not get the required food, heat or drugs needed.

If you really want to do this expensive project, find some other way to pay for it. I am aware of not any one living who created the problem.

Sincerely,



Emery Mattson.

## Ashland/NSP Lakefront Site Public Comment Sheet

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7-24-09

Dear Sirs: My comments are limited. As presented at the City Council Chambers on 6-29-09 the installation and removal of the sheet wall piling at the end of each season. I'm not a design nor a engineer. For consideration. If Possible: Install outer water retention wall and then create a Honeycomb Engineered system of wall/cells to be retained in place during the shut down/off seasons At the end of the Annual allowable seasonal Cleanup Period, backfill the outer most/inner honeycomb cells with water to be able to withstand the over winter pressures of water and ice expansion which would allow earlier seasonal initiation of continued Cleanup Process. Possible considerable dollar and time savings. The outer Honeycomb Cells closest to the actual outer wall could be evacuated of water at the approximate of intended Cleanup time Frame

Name:

Robert Blaszkowski

Affiliation:

Ashland City Council

Address:

City:

Ashland, WI

State:

Wisconsin

Zip:

54806

Ashland/NSP Lakefront Site  
Public Comment Sheet

6060435900

Name  
Address  
City  
State



Mr Blaszkowski



Patti Krause  
Community Involvement Coordinator  
EPA Region 5 (mail code SI-7J)  
77 W. Jackson Blvd.  
Chicago, IL 60604-3590



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My name is Peggy Koehler, Chairperson for the Ashland Parks and Recreation Commission.

In the process of cleaning up the Superfund site our understanding is Kieher Park will be shut down for a period of time. The commission understands the need to shut down the park in order for the clean up to occur but no consideration or plan has been given to the loss of revenue that the city receives from it.

Kieher Park is a lake front campsite for many. The campsite generates revenues in many areas from this site as well as all the downtown businesses. The world of camping is big and reputations are created by word of mouth and through public relations. Many magazines publish and rate campsites. Kieher is a site that is highly rated and sought after. Camp books are published and only updated every 2-4 years. We can't not afford not to have a plan.

The commission is not only concerned about the loss of revenue it generates but the effect it will have on the city with no plan of action to keep this camping world alive here in Ashland.

Please make this a "high priority" as conversions continue. Thank you much for taking your time in listening to all.

Name:

Peggy Koehler

Affiliation:

Chairperson of Ashland Parks and Recreation Commission

Address:

City:

Ashland

State:

WI

Zip:

54806

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I fully support the EPA's proposed remedial action plan and hope the agency will not accept proposed revisions in the interest of potentially lower costs. I also hope that the project will now move forward without any further delays, at least as quickly as outlined in the PRAP, as the sooner these contaminants are removed from the bay and lakefront, the better for the environment and nearby residents.

Consultants and would-be contractors for the RP suggested at the June 29 public hearing a number of ostensibly cost-cutting revisions, e.g. wet dredging rather than dry excavation, and asserted that these alternatives would be just as protective of the environment. I would prefer to rely on the unbiased judgment(s) of the experts at EPA that went into the PRAP, and urge the agency to insist on implementation of a plan that puts human health and the environment ahead of the RP's cost concerns.

Name:

Shari Eggleston

Affiliation:

Address:

City:

Washburn

State:

WI

Zip:

54891-4417

Ashland/NSP Lakefront Site  
Public Comment Sheet

Name \_\_\_\_\_  
Address \_\_\_\_\_  
City \_\_\_\_\_  
State \_\_\_\_\_

Shari Eggleston

EAU CLAIRE WI 547

13 JUL 2008 PM 17



Patti Krause  
Community Involvement Coordinator  
EPA Region 5 (mail code SI-7J)  
77 W. Jackson Blvd.  
Chicago, IL 60604-3590

60604+3590





Patricia  
Krause/R5/USEPA/US  
08/12/2009 06:55 AM

To

Subject Fw: Ashland/NSP Lakrfront Superfund Site Comments

History:

✉ This message has been replied to.

Scott - I won't be back for awhile and will forward you Ashland comments received through email. I think Sue Pastor will share the comments received through the mail.

Patti Krause  
Community Involvement Coordinator  
U.S. EPA Region 5, Superfund Division  
77 W. Jackson Blvd., SI-7J  
Chicago, IL 60604  
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-----Forwarded by Patricia Krause/R5/USEPA/US on 08/12/2009 06:56AM -----

To: Patricia Krause/  
From: "Duane Lahti"  
Date: 07/16/2009 12:03AM  
cc: <[john.robinson@wisconsin.gov](mailto:john.robinson@wisconsin.gov)>  
Subject: Ashland/NSP Lakrfront Superfund Site Comments

Dear Ms. Krause:

As a life-time resident of northern Wisconsin who recently retired from the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources after over 28 years in the Water program, I am very familiar with the issues surrounding this Superfund site. I also attended several informational meetings and the recently held public hearing on June 17, 2009.

I strongly support the EPA's recommended alternative (Scenario 10) to restore and remediate this site. The significance of the Lake Superior resource requires that all contaminated material and free product that currently contaminates this area of Chequamegon Bay and the underlying Copper Falls aquifer be removed to acceptable standards as prescribed by the appropriate regulatory agencies including EPA and the WDNR. The only acceptable alternative is removal through dredging and incineration and ground water extraction as specified in the preferred alternative. Lake Superior is an international resource whose Wisconsin waters are protected by our very strong Public Trust Doctrine. This doctrine holds in trust for the public the navigable waters within our state's boundaries. The Trust also applies to areas of previously filled lakebed as is the case in the Kreher Park area of this project site. It is the affirmative duty of the WDNR to uphold this trust that they have been delegated to protect for the public by the legislature.

Alternatives to allow contaminated sediment to remain on the bed of the lake or in the aquifer, as well as alternatives to cap or cover up the sediment are not only unacceptable, but in violation of the Wisconsin Public Trust Doctrine. We need to get beyond the "out of sight, out of mind" mentality that caused many of our current environmental problems in the first place. If the remediation isn't done right, we are only passing on the problem to future generations. At the public hearing I heard a few comments regarding the cost of the removal and the burden that will be incurred by the ratepayers. What will the cost be to human health and the environment and to future ratepayers if the remediation is not done right the first time?

Those of us who work in the conservation and environmental professions are the caretakers of the environment and natural resources for future generations and the public depends on us to fulfill this responsibility.

I also am aware of a major "dry dredging" project on the North Shore of Lake Superior that was completed at Taconite Harbor through the use of a cofferdam. This project took place in a reach of shoreline exposed to high wave energy and was very successful. Please don't allow costs to dictate the direction of this important project. It needs to be done right!  
Thank you for the opportunity to comment.

Sincerely,

Duane Lahti



Patricia  
Krause/R5/USEPA/US  
08/12/2009 06:56 AM

To

Subject Fw: (192223246) AshlandandNSP Lakefront  
Superfund\_Public\_Comments

Patti Krause  
Community Involvement Coordinator  
U.S. EPA Region 5, Superfund Division  
77 W. Jackson Blvd., SI-7J  
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-----Forwarded by Patricia Krause/R5/USEPA/US on 08/12/2009 06:58AM -----

To: Patricia Krause/R5/USEPA/US@EPA  
From: "idaemon.rtpnc.epa.gov" <[idaemon@unixpub.epa.gov](mailto:idaemon@unixpub.epa.gov)>  
Date: 07/12/2009 09:32PM  
Subject: (192223246) AshlandandNSP Lakefront Superfund\_Public\_Comments

2-Name:Kassia Pencek  
3-Organization:  
4-E-mail:k  
5-Street:2  
6-City:Leola  
7-State:PA  
8-Zipcode:17540

9-Comments:I would like to cast my vote in support of the highest quality of clean up efforts on for this area. I personally have discovered through negative experiences how dangerous 'brownfields' can be at the smallest level. I jogged through a small area of 5 industries not marked as containing dangerous toxins nor located far out from town. Each time I jogged through this area I would have more problems controlling my saliva, swallowing, breathing standards. I eventually had a full on exercise induced anaphylactic shock. My throat closed up, my entire dermal organ swelled up, my chest became severely constricted, but obviously I made it. The area I jogged in does not have brown smog around it, nor is known to the layman as a slightly hazardous area evidenced by the largest gymnastic and indoor soccer field arena with in the industrail park. I have not had another case of the shock since jogging the same way, length, season in any other location. Please do the right thing by

reversing as much damage to the environment as possible in this area. Ideally, this effort will model ethical behavior for clean ups of other polluted areas. Thanks for all you do.

submit:Send Comments

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Browser: Mozilla/4.0 (compatible; MSIE 7.0; Windows NT 5.1; .NET CLR 1.1.4322)

Referred: <http://www.epa.gov/region5/publiccomment/ashland-pubcomment.htm>

TSSMS: reg5oopa

Mail to File: ashland.txt  
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Patricia  
Krause/R5/USEPA/US  
08/12/2009 06:57 AM

To

Subject Fw: Ashland Superfund site

Patti Krause  
Community Involvement Coordinator  
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-----Forwarded by Patricia Krause/R5/USEPA/US on 08/12/2009 06:59AM -----

To: Patricia Krause/R5/USEPA/US@EPA  
From: "Glen Samuelson" <  
Date: 06/30/2009 02:34PM  
Subject: Ashland Superfund site

Ms Krause,

I am an Ashland resident who attended last nights meeting. I would be in favor of the #6 plan or some variation of it, it seemed less costly and more workable.

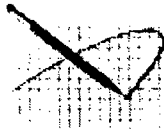
One thing not mentioned, if any of the refuse is moved off site by trucks, they should use an egress route using water street which parallels Hwy 2, go East and enter the U.U Hwy 2 east of the present Ore Dock so they do not use or cross the New section of the highway which was just completed from Beaser Ave on the West to Stuntz Ave on the East. I could envision a lot of heavy truck traffic causing damage to that new road.

Where would the refuse go. Has anyone addressed the NIMBY (Not In MY Back Yard) issue?

I used to work at the old Lake Superior Distrist Power Site that caused this problem while I attended college. I have no related health problem that I know of. When the old Sanitation System was built back in the 50's, I can't see how they missed the problem then!

Glenn R. Samuelson





Patricia  
Krause/R5/USEPA/US  
08/12/2009 06:58 AM

To

Subject Fw: Ashland/NSP site

Patti Krause  
Community Involvement Coordinator  
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-----Forwarded by Patricia Krause/R5/USEPA/US on 08/12/2009 07:00AM -----

To: Patricia Krause/  
From: "Kathy Allen"  
Date: 06/30/2009 12:47PM  
cc: <kathyallen700@centurytel.net>  
Subject: Ashland/NSP site

Ms. Krause,

I fully support the EPA's cleanup plan for the Ashland/NSP Lakefront site. While I was president of the Ashland/Bayfield League of Women Voters I had the opportunity to facilitate a number of community informational meetings, along with TOSC, Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources, Sigurd Olson Environmental Institute, and the EPA concerning this site. There seemed to be consensus among the participants concerning two points: one, the cleanup would be done once and we would not have to do it again, and two, the cleanup would meet EPA health and environmental standards. The EPA's plan as presented, I think, meets these standards.

I would have preferred a complete dry excavation of the sediments, but am very satisfied with the compromise and the plan for the sediments. I am also very supportive of the plan because it dovetails nicely with the City's Waterfront Plan and the City's Comprehensive Plan.

This has been a long and arduous process. I think the public should support and be thankful for such a complete and thoughtful plan as the EPA has proposed.

Kathy Allen